

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 6, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 6 is canceled. Claim 1 has been amended and claim 10 is added. Claims 1-5 and 7-10 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,020,042 (Worthington).

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Worthington in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,811,688 (Turner).

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Worthington in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,029 (Ryser).

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Worthington.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Worthington in view of Ryser.

Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 6 and now recites "a drive pinion arranged on said folding-blade shaft, said drive pinion being connected to said folding-blade shaft with a form-fitting connection by serrated toothing". This feature is described in paragraph [0021] of the specification.

Worthington discloses a folder having a drive shaft connected with folder blade shafts 10, 11 which have mounted thereon a plurality of folder blades 12 (see col. 2, lines 24-27, of Worthington). Each of the shafts 10, 11 has a spur gear 13, 17 (col. 2,

lines 28-34). The Examiner alleges that the spur gears 13, 17 of Worthington disclose the claimed pinion gear. However, Worthington fails to teach or suggest that the spur gears 13, 17 are connected to the shafts 10, 11 using a form-fitting connection having serrated toothing, as recited in Independent claim 1. Accordingly, Worthington fails to anticipate independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Worthington also fails to teach or suggest a form-fitting connection having serrated toothing because there is no mention of the type of connection of the spur gears 13, 17 on the shafts 10, 11. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is also allowable over Worthington under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10, each being dependent on independent claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons described above with respect to independent claim 1.

New dependent claim 10 further recites "a clamping element providing a force-transmitting connection between said drive pinion and said folding-blade shaft". Support for this limitation is found at the end of paragraph [0021]. None of the prior art of record discloses such a feature. Accordingly, dependent claim 10 is allowable for at least this additional reason.

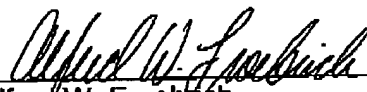
In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By


Alfred W. Froeblich
Reg/No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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